EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

NOVA SCOTIA BRANCH.

WEEK OF PRAYER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

JANUARY 4--11, 1874.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

It is again our duty and privilege to summon you to join in the customary WEEK OF INTERCESSION which for many years Christians of different nations and languages have agreed to observe. It is cheering to mark, as the years roll on, how this call to prayer meets with a more general and hearty response, and each successive year is ushered in by a wider and more extended gathering of the children of God around the throne of the heavenly grace. The remembrance of many hallowed seasons, when our devotions were led by venerated and beloved servants of God, who now rest from their labours, and have exchanged prayer for praise, cannot but endear to us those occasions of cultivating and enjoying the Communion of Saints. Nor do the circumstances of the day in which we live permit the thought of relaxing in the earnestness and importunity of our prayers. All around us are symptoms which may well awaken grave and anxious thoughts in Christian hearts. The agitation and unrest of nations, the rise and fall of empires, the rapid and sudden revolutions of opinion, the anti-social and anti-Christian elements known to be fermenting among the masses, the wide-spread diffusion of sceptical ideas, the hostile attitude of modern science towards everything supernatural, the startling developments of an unscriptural and superstitious Ritualism; and, not least, the astute and audacious struggles of Popery to recover its authority over the minds of men,—all together constitute such a plea for prayer as no intelligent and thoughtful mind can fail to recognize. The most effective reply which the faithful disciples of Christ can give to the scornful taunt, "What profit is there in prayer?" is by a more fervent and energetic appeal to Him "that heareth prayer." The most hopeful method of frustrating the pernicious schemes of foolish or wicked men is by engaging the arm of Omnipotence against them. The constant lesson which the Word of God teaches the believer in his warfare with the forces of evil, is, "Fear them not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." At the same time there is much to excite gratitude and encourage hope. Never was the world so open to the entrance of the Gospel. The ancient barriers of inveterate prejudice have been broken down; Oriental nations are awakening from the deep slumber of ages, and are turning wistful eyes towards the mysterious wisdom and power of the West. The Missionary and the Bible enter with the engineer and the merchant. Be it ours to pray that all these things may fall out to the furtherance of the Gospel; and while drawing closer to each other and to God, to lift up our united supplications that the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, may shine upon the dark places of the earth, and fill the world with the knowledge of His glory.

The following are suggested as suitable topics for exhortation and prayer on the successive days of meeting:

Sunday, *January* 4.—**Sermons**:—The unity of the Christian Church. The real oneness of all true believers. Hindrances and motives to union. John xvii. 21, 22, 23.

Monday, " 5.—**Thanksgiving**:—For national, domestic, and personal mercies, both spiritual and temporal. **Confession**:—Unworthiness and guilt of our people and ourselves Dan. ix. 3.

Tuesday, " 6.—**Prayer**:—For the Christian Church; for the increase of faith and holiness, love and power; and for the more abundant grace of the Holy Spirit; for persecuted and suffering Christians. Col. i. 9, 10, 11; Heb. xiii. 3.

Wednesday, " 7.—**Prayer**:—For Families; Home and parental influence. Schools, private and public. Sons and daughters absent from home. Children in sickness and affliction The erring and disobedient. Psalm cxv. 12, 13, 14; cxliv. 12.

Thursday, " 8.—**Prayer**:—For nations; for peace among men; for public virtue and righteousness; for the banishment of intemperance, infidelity, superstition, and error, and for the diffusion of pure and Christian literature. Isa. xi. 17, 48.

Friday, " 9.—**Prayer**:—For the evangelization of European countries; for the conversion of Israel; for the spread of the Gospel in Mohammedan and heathen lands. Psalm lxviii. 31; cxxii. 6; Heb. xii. 3.

Saturday, " 10.—**Prayer**:—In review of the events of 1873. Recognition of the Providence of God. Happy issue of the Divine dispensation. Isa. xxvi. 8, 9.

Sunday, " 11.—**Sermons**:—Subject: Christ's kingdom universal and everlasting. Psalm xcvii. 1, 2.

The following arrangements have been adopted for the city of Halifax:

SABBATH: Jan. 4th.—Meeting at 4½ o'clock P. M., conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association.

Meetings will be held every week-day morning at 9½ o'clock, in ARGYLE HALL.

Evening Meetings will be held from 7½ till 9 o'clock, as follows:—

MONDAY: Brunswick Street Church.
TUESDAY: Grafton Street Church, and Richmond Church.
WEDNESDAY: Fort Massey and St. John's Churches.
THURSDAY: Granville Street and Poplar Grove Churches.
FRIDAY: St. Andrew's Church and North Baptist Church.
SATURDAY: St. Matthew's Church, at 3½ P. M.

SABBATH: Meeting conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association.

MONDAY, Jan. 12th.—A Special Meeting of THANKSGIVING FOR THE MERCIES OF THE WEEK OF PRAYER will be held in Chalmers' Church at 7½ P. M.

D. McN. PARKER, *President,*
ROBERT MURRAY, *Secretary.*

HALIFAX, December, 1873.

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